shōjo

RED RIVER

5 Chie Shinohara

RED RIVER

vol.5

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
A Hittite royal prince, general, and priest-sorcerer

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire

Queen Nikaa
An evil sorceress who will stop at nothing to ensure her son's succession to the throne.

Yuri is a normal junior high school student until the day she gets sucked into a portal. She emerges in the ancient Hittite Empire, married through space and time by the evil Queen Nikaa, who wants to offer Yuri as a sacrifice. But Yuri is rescued by the handsome Prince Kail who takes her as his concubine.

Yuri's wish is to go home to present-day Japan, but for that to happen three conditions must be met: she must enlist the help of a priest-sorcerer, the city's seven springs must fill with water, and Yuri must wear the ring she had on when she arrived. In order to get her clothes back, Yuri steals into the queen's palace and as a result, Kail's young servant, Tita, is killed. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home she vows to stay until she has avenged Tita.

To shield Yuri from suspicion, Kail announces that she is the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar and the people soon come to adore her. Kail's dream is to rule an empire of justice with the help of his brother, Prince Zannanza.
Now the Mitani have declared war on the Hittites, and Kail's father vowing to crush the enemy once and for all, appoints Kail to lead his armies.
Meanwhile, Yuri discovers that Queen Nikaa is trying to get her hands on the fabled mind-control talisman, the Dragon's Eye that Kail and Yuri hope to beat her to it.

Kail's first objective is the city-state Mukana, which the Mitanni have taken as their forward base. Kail declares he will conquer Mukana in five days and return the city as a guest of the Hittite.

YES.
BUT THEY'RE FINE WHERE THEY ARE. YOU NEEDN'T MAKE ROOM FOR THEM ON THE PALACE FLOOR.
YES, BUT...
WILL YOUR ARMY WHICH WAITS OUTSIDE THE CITY BE STAYING TOO?

THEY'RE TRESSYM LIKE THE SOLDIERS OF MALATIA. BUT I'M SURE THEY'RE INTANAL.
THERE ARE SO MANY GUARDS HERE
STAY WITH US AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, YOUR HIGHNESS
AS YOU WISH...

WHAT IS PRINCE KAIL THINKING?
WAR IS SUCH ONEROUS BUSINESS
IF THEY DECIDE TO KILL US, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE.

I'D BE MOST GRATEFUL IF I COULD STAY HERE UNTIL HIS HEAD GOOLS, HAHM.
I WAS APPALLED...
WHEN MY FATHER DECLARED HE WOULD LAUNCH THIS OPERATION.

ANY! MILADY WILL KINDLINE THAT I DON'T GET BORED AT NIGHT
SLURP
HE'S PROBABLY OFF ACHIEVING ANOTHER STUNNING CONQUEST RIGHT NOW
THIS IS A TRAINING CITY. NOT I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO VISIT YOUR BAZAARS!
GULP
YEAH, WAS THAT A GOOD YEAR FOR TONGUES?
SWEET
A SWEET WINE, EH?

!!
I'LL LET MY BROTHERS HANDLE IT
I PREFER TO RELAX HERE

THIS IS NO TIME FOR SMOOCHING!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
GLUG
MY MOTHER TOOK HIM IN SO HE GIVES ME CREDIT FOR HALF OF HIS VICTORIES, THE LITTLE PEAR.
OH, THAT WAS THE WORK OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER.
YOUR FASHION, PRINCE KAI.
I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR BRILLIANT VICTORY AT KITJANATNA.

EEK
ESPECIALLY IN BED, EH?
PSST
OH, YES. I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE.
IT SEEMS HIS HIGH NESS WISHES TO BE ALONE WITH HIS CONCUBINE.
I NEVER SAID THAT!
GREAT HAKIM.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY
?!?
WHAT? YOU'RE SLEEPY?
VERY WELL.

SHE IS VERY EXOTIC...
AND SO CHARMINGLY INNOCENT.
YES. CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
YOUR CONCUBINE, PRINCE KALI?
SHE'S BEEN WITH ME FOR THREE MONTHS NOW.
NO. SHE'S QUITE UNSOPHISTICATED.

NO. BUT I MUST INFORM HIM OF THIS. NONETHELESS, I'LL SEND A MESSENGER IMMEDIATELY.
IT SEEMS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS...
WE WON'T WORRY ABOUT PRINCE KAIL.
WE'LL ALLOW KIM TO SPEND HIS LAST DAYS ENJOYING HIMSELF.
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL SURELY HAVE KAIL'S HEAD WHEN HE RETURNS.
AH YOU WISH.
THANK

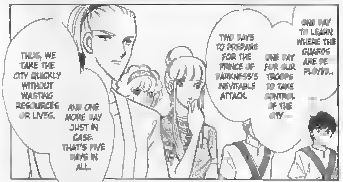
GOOD-NIGHT TO YOU.
OH, I SHALL, HANIM.
SLEEP WELL.
PRINCE KAIL MUST BE ILL
BUT PLEASE.
LET'S KEEP THAT BETWEEN US.
TO QUIET THE SOLDIERS WHO WANT A WOMAN RITING NI- TO BATTLE WITH THEM.
THE PRINCE INVENTED THAT TALE..
I SEE. YOUR JOB MUST BE MOST UN-MANNING
QUITE.
BUT OF COURSE.
OH, THAT RUMOR.
MARTAIN, THE GODDESS OF WAR.
I'VE HEARD THAT PRINCE KAIL ALLEGEDLY CONCEIVED W-
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

WHAT?
HALF OF MY PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN EXECUTED!
AND WE'VE JUST ACCOMPLISHED THAT
THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF GETTING A CITY IS GETTING INSIDE
WITHOUT BLOODSHED?
HE MEANS TO TAKE THE CITY WITHOUT KILLING ANYONE?
MALAKIA WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT BLOODSHED.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING
BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT A WHOLE CITY!

THEY'VE REDUCED THE GUARDS BY HALF
LOOK.
SNIFF
MY PERFORMANCE WAS CONVINCING ENT
IT WAS AN ACT?
PHEW... I'M EXHAUSTED!
PRINCE KAI. NOW WILL YOU TELL ME HOW YOU PLAN TO CONQUER MALAKIA?
THAT WAS WORSE THAN RIDING THAT HORSE ON THE BATTLE FIELD

WITHOUT BLOODSHED...
CAN WE REALLY DO IT?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S ABSENCE MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.
IF WE WERE HERE TO DEFEND THE CITY IT WOULDN'T WORK.
WE ARE GOING TO DO IT
EXACTLY
OH!
THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED PRINCE SANRAIZA TO LURE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS AWAY FROM HERE
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
ALL RIGHT WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE.
FIND ME THE DEPLOYMENT MAP

BUT BEFORE THAT, WE SHALL SET FIRE TO MALATIA'S ARMORIES WE'LL DRIVE MITANNI OF A STRONGHOLD AND AVOID A FULL-SCALE BATTLE.
YES.
WE SHALL OPEN THE WESTERN AND EASTERN GATES AND LET IN THE HITTITE ARMY.


THUS, WE TAKE THE CITY QUICKLY WITHOUT WASTING RESOURCES OR LIVES.
AND ONE MORE DAY JUST IN CASE. THAT'S FIVE DAYS IN ALL.
TWO DAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S INEVITABLE ATTACK.
ONE DAY FOR OUR TROOPS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE CITY...
ONE DAY TO LEARN WHERE THE GUARDS ARE DEPLOYED...

A BOX OF GOLD-INLAID IVORY...
I'LL INVESTIGATE WHEN I SEARCH FOR THE MAP TONIGHT
YOU TWO REST WELL. GOOD-NIGHT
I WON'T KNOW
NO ONE HAS SEEN IT BUT SOME SAY IT'S A REAL DRAGON'S EYE FROM ANCIENT TIMES, OTHERS SAY IT'S JUST A SCARLET STONE.
IT IS SAID TO BE SEALED IN A BOX OF GOLD-INLAID IVORY THAT FITS IN THE HANDS.

ALL FORTIFIED CITIES HAVE ONE.
WE'LL GO TO THE CITY HALL AND LOOK FOR IT
DO PLOYMENT MAPS? DOES SUCH A THING EXIST?
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE SHOULD LOOK FOR.
WHAT DOES THE DRAGON'S EYE LOOK LIKE?
YUM?
THAT FABLE? TALISMAN SAID TO HOLD THE SECRET OF CONTROLLING PEOPLE'S MINDS. YES, WE MUST FIND IT BEFORE THE QUEEN OR THE PRINCE OF PARADISE DO!
THE DRAGON'S EYE.
THE DRAGON'S EYE!
IT SHOULD BE HERE IN MALATIA, RIGHT?

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RED RIVER

Ancient Hittite royal Prince Kail and modern teen Yuri continue to battle to save Kail's kingdom and to be with one another! The two journey to the city of Malatia to prepare for battle with the enemy's armies. Yuri plots to foil the plans of the Prince of Darkness. If her attempt fails and she becomes a prisoner of the evil prince, she may have to surrender her relationship with Kail—and her way back to modern-day Japan!

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This book reads from right to left.

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VIZ

PRINCESS YURI...
YUU REALLY SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH PRINCE KAI...
I... I KNOW...
BUT STAYING WITH HIM...
...IS A PROBLEM.

!!
RUSTLE
VERY WELL.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, EVERYONE
I'LL GO WITH YUU!!
HAH...
YOU'RE SHORT HANDED! THE MORE OF US, THE BETTER. LET'S GO!
BUT WAIT...
YES, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
PRINCESS YURI YOU SHOULD REST

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LAST NIGHT I PRETENDED I WAS ASLEEP, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP DOING THAT FOR-EVER.
YURI.
PRINCESS YURI!
HUH!?

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SOME-ONE'S CONCU-BINE.
I'M PRETTY SURE I'M SUFFOCATING TO SLEEP WITH PRINCE KAIL LATELY.
I LIKE PRINCE KAIL VERY MUCH, BUT
...I DON'T FEEL READY
YET...

THE MAP SHOULD BE THERE
THIS IS THEIR CITY HALL.
FIND THE KHAN'S OFFICE.
THIS MUST BE THE MITANNI'S CACHE OF PLUNDER!
MAYBE WE CAN FIND THE DRAGON'S EYE!

PRINCESS YUMI.
HIDE YOURSELF!
VIP
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
WHO'S THAT?
PROBABLY A MESSENGER SENT TO TELL THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS ABOUT US
OUR TROOPS OUTSIDE WILL STOP HIM, WON'T THEY?
OF COURSE, THEY'RE EXPECTING THIS MOVE
BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
IF THE GUARDS SEE US, WE'LL BE DEAD BEFORE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS.

ALL RIGHT
HURRY
WE JUST NEED THAT DISPLOY MENT MAP
SNK

PRINCESS YURI...
QUEEN NAMA WOULDN'T ALLOW THE DRAGON'S EYE TO BE TRANSPORTED IN PLAIN SIGHT
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LOOK FOR IT IN THIS MOUNTAIN OF BOOTY NOW
WE'LL SEARCH FOR IT AFTER MAJUTA HAS BEEN TAKEN.
IT WOULD BE WELL HIDDEN.
IT'S HIDDEN
YES. YOU'RE RIGHT
THIS WAY!
WE'VE FOUND HIS OFFICE.

IF EVERYTHING COME TIME SMOOTHLY, WE CAN CONQUER LOTS OF FORTIFIED CITIES IN TEN MONTHS.
TRUE.

LET'S HURRY AND COPY IT
THIS IS GOING WELL
THEN WE'LL PUT IT BACK—
JUST AS IT WAS!

FLIP UP
I FIGURE IT!
IT'S THE MAP!

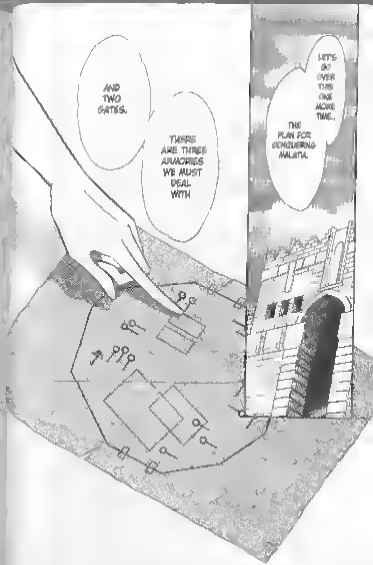
STEP ASIDE! IF THAT RIDER GETS THROUGH, PRINCE KAIL WILL BE IN DANGER.
WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
YOU !
SH
UK
YES.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M HERE.
AGH!
!! YOU.
WHAT?

HE MUSTN'T REACH THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
I WON'T!
HERE COMES A RIDER FROM MALATIA
WAIT

BEFORE WE LET THE TROOPS IN,
WE SHOULD GET SOME REST
OKAY!
WE HAVE THE MAP AND WE HAVE FOUR MORE DAYS UNTIL THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS.

CHUNK
KILL HIM!!
HAH?!
NAH!
THE SOONER THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS, THE BETTER
IF HE KILLS PRINCE KAIL, QUEEN NAVIA WILL BE WELL PLEASED...

WE'LL SET FIRE TO THE ARMORIES.
THEN WE'LL OPEN THE GATES AND
LET THE SOLDIERS IN.
WHILE YOU ARE DOING THAT, YURI AND I WILL.
DISTRACT THE HAKIM AND GENERAL PANA.

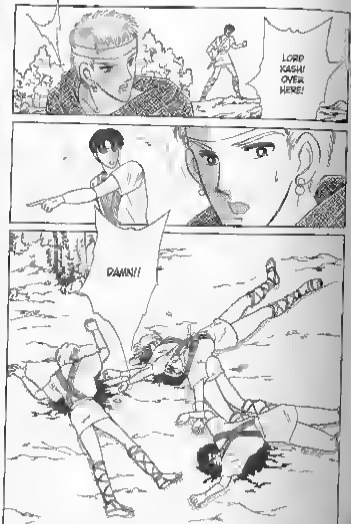

LET'S GO OVER THIS ONE MORE TIME...
THE PLAN FOR CONQUERING MALATIA.
THERE ARE THREE ARMORIES WE MUST DEAL WITH
AND TWO GATES.

THE HAKIM WIPE THE MAP!
MAY I COME IN?
GOOD MORNING PRINCE KAL...

I WISH TO HOST A FORMAL FEAST TONIGHT IN HONOR OF YOUR VISIT. WOULD YOU BE MY GUEST?
IT IS A BEAUTIFUL DAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
A FORMAL FEAST?
THAT MEANS ONLY MALE ROYALS ARE INVITED?
THEN ONLY ILBANI AND I WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

IS EVERY-THING CLEAR? MAKE SURE YOU GET WORD TO THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE!
YES, SIR!
WE'LL PUT OUR PLAN INTO ACTION TOMORROW AT DAWN!
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED SO MUCH.
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO GET RID OF AHLANA.

PRINCE KAIL ?!?
WAP
YOU WOUND ME ONE NIGHT OF LOVE WON'T MIND ME!
KLAK
SO, ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE DONE, AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO UNTIL MORNING, WHICH MEANS...
I'LL BE ALONE WITH PRINCE KAIL FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT.
I WILL BE BACK TO ESCORT YOU THIS EVENING
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS
AH, WELL, I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION.
HMPH. A FEAST WITH NO WOMEN?
ROYAL CUSTOM FORBIDS IT
FORGIVE ME, I AM UNABLE TO INVITE YOUR CHARMING CONCUBINE
YOU SHOULD ALL GET SOME REST
WELL, IT'LL ENJOY HIS HOSPITALITY FOR NOW
AND
RIGHT. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS MESSENGER WAS INTERCEPTED!
KLAK
HEH HEH. HE WANTS TO HAND PRINCE KAIL OVER TO THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS
I KNOW YOU MUST PLAINT YOUR ARDOR FOR YUKI IN YOUR CURRENT ROLE...
BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO EXHAUST YOURSELF
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. PLEASE EXCUSE ME.


LORD XASHI OVER HERE!
DAWN!!

THEY WERE WAITING IN AMBUSH AROUND HERE
YES, SIR!
WE'D BETTER HAVE A LOOK.
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
THEY SHOULD'VE REPORTED BY NOW
WE'VE HAD NO WORD FROM THE MEN WE SENT TO INTERCEPT THE MESSENGERS FROM THE CITY?

RUSTLE
WHAT?! KAIL MURSILI IS A GUEST OF THE HAKKI?!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
A RIDER HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM MALATIA.
THE HITTITE OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO CAPTURE THE CITY FROM WITHIN!!
THAT FOOL! WHY DID HE LET HIM IN?

THE KNIFE PROVIDES NO CLUE.
WHO DID THIS?
THIS MEANS THE MESSENGER GOT PAST THEM!
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT WHO DID IT LATER...
AND THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS KNOWS THAT PRINCE KAIL IS IN MALATIA!

WHAT?
PRINCE ZANGAN-TAI!
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS WITH DRAWING!!
IF HE GOES BACK NOW, MY BROTHER WILL BE...!!
DAMN! WORM MUST HAVE RESCUED HIM FROM MALATIA.

THIS ARMY WAS A DECOY!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE JUST SITTING AROUND!
ALL FORCES! WE'RE RETURNING TO MALATIA WITH ALL SPEED!!
KOP KOP KOP
RRMMB RRMMB

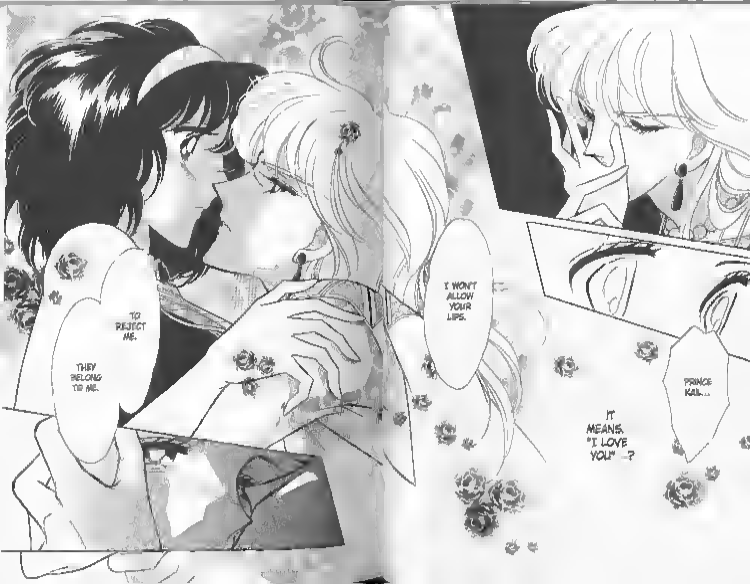
EEK!
PRINCE KAIL?
WHEN WE'RE ALONE IN THIS ROOM DOING NOTHING IT FEELS AWKWARD
AND IF I REJECT HIM AGAIN, HE'LL BE ANGRY
I'VE WON TEN TIMES IN A ROW!
YOU HAVE NO KNACK FOR THIS GAME YURU.
WELL, LET'S PLAY ONE MORE GAME!
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE THAT TWICE
AND YOU WERE SUPPOSED CLEANING IT BEFORE I STILL
OKAY THEN, I'LL CLEAN THE ROOM.
THAT DOES IT
OH! I LOST AGAIN?
BUT

OH!
PRINCE KAIL?
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS, DO YOU...
BUT IT IS NOT PLEASANT TO SEE YOU AVOIDING ME
IT MAKES ME WANT TO TORMENT YOU A LITTLE.

IN MY COUNTRY, A MAN MAKES LOVE TO A WOMAN HE'S FOND OF.
THAT'S HOW HE EXPRESSES HIS FEELINGS TO HER.
E... NO...
MAYBE THAT SEEMS NATURAL TO HIM.
—BECAUSE HE'S A GROWN MAN
BUT I... I...

PRINCE KAIL HAS NEVER SAID HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME.
IF WE DO THINGS IN THE RIGHT ORDER, THIS SHOULD COME FIRST
IS THIS TOO CHILDISH FOR HIM?
SURE, THE USUAL THING IS AT THE BEGINNING, TOO.
GASP
THAT ISN'T MUCH FUN.
I LIKE THE WAY WE DO THINGS IN MY COUNTRY BETTER.
HANDS TO YOURSELF!
SWUFF

SWOOSH
Y-YOU WILL?
WHAT DO MEN DO IN YOUR COUNTRY?
HOW CAN I MAKE YOU WANT ME?
I'LL DO WHAT-EVER YOU TELL ME TO.
HOW DO THEY SHOW THEIR AFFECTION?
WHAT KIND OF SPELL ARE YOU CASTING?
THEIR AFFEC-TION...?
SWUFF
FLASH
IT'S A SYMBOL THAT MEANS "I LOVE YOU."
ANYONE IN MY COUNTRY WOULD RECOGNIZE IT


TO REJECT ME.
THEY BELONG TO ME.
I WON'T ALLOW YOUR LIPS.
PRINCE KAIL...
IT MEANS, "I LOVE YOU" ...?

PRINCE KAI...
AHEM!
GASP
FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU!
PARDON THE INTRUSION, BUT
THE HANNA HAS COME TO RECORT YOU TO THE FEAST
OH, YEAH.
WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD.
THIS IS NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT LOVE!
I'LL NEED A MOMENT TO CHANGE
OH, IS IT TIME ALREADY?

RUSTLE RUSTLE
KASH?
KLAB
FIFTEEN-FUL-MEN ARE HARD TASK-MASTERS, AREN'T THEY?
KLAB
HMPH. WHY DO THEY SEND ME ON SUCH A TRIVIAL ERRAND?
KLAB
KOKKURI! THIS MAN WISHES TO SEE PRINCE KAIL.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT BROTHER ?!
WAP
KASH?? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??
KOKKURI, LISTEN TO ME.
MY DUTY IS DONE, I'LL JUST BE GOING NOW
PHEW
FOR REAL! REALLY!
THEY WON'T SEND MORE BEANS WITHOUT THE PRINCE'S APPROVAL!
THOSE IDIOT BUREAUCRATS INSIST THAT THEY MUST HAVE PRINCE KAIL'S SEAL IN ORDER TO REQUISITION MORE BEANS!

WHAT
WE NEED ONLY AVOID SUSPICION UNTIL WE MAKE OUR MOVE AT DAWN.
THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL.

...THEY'LL SUSPECT WE KNOW THEIR PLAN AND KILL US ALL NOW!
BUT IF WE DO ANYTHING UNUSUAL...
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO PROTECT PRINCE KAIL.
THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH! FIND AN EXCUSE TO SUMMON PRINCE KAIL.
IF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS NOW, ALL IS LOST!
HE'LL BEHEAD PRINCE KAIL!!

KYAAJIL
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BE HERE TONIGHT!
WHAT?
THE HAKUA'S MESSENGER GOT THROUGH.
WHAT HAPPENED KASH?
I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS LATER.
PRINCE KAIL MUST BE WARNED AT ONCE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
PRINCE KAIL IS ATTENDING THE HAKUA'S FORMAL FEAST

PRINCESS YURI, WAIT!
I'LL GO IN.
THEY MAY SLAY YOU IN THE STORY—AND PRINCE KAIL WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THEM.
WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THERE!
OUT OF MY WAY. I HAVE TO WARN HIM!
HADL STOP HER...
PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE WAIT!
TMP

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FEAST CHAMBER!
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, THEN?
AND THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BEHEAD PRINCE KAIL!
IF WE DON'T ACT NOW, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED.

WOOSH
PRINCESS YURI?

YURI?!
?!
SHE'LL BE CUT DOWN!!
PRINCESS YURI
WHAT IS SHE GOING TO DO?!

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

THE LAW DEMANDS THAT YOU PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!
SHINK
PRINCESS YURI!
THOUGH YOU ARE PRINCE KAI'S CONSORT, THIS CANNOT BE IGNORED!
PRINCESS YURI, RUN THIS WAY!
OH!
WOOSH
PRINCE KAI!!
YURI!

MURMUR
MURMUR
WHAT'S THEY? WOMEN ARE NOT PERMITTED HERE.
MURMUR
WHAT PRESUMPTUOUS!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!!
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

EXCUSE ME, PRINCE KAIL.
PRINCE KAIL.
WHISPR
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WILL BE HERE SOON.
WHISPR
PLEASE.
I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH YOU.
COME BACK TO THE BED-CHAMBER.

I MISS YOU!!
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE! ♡

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS IS COMING!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

PRINCE KAI.
WELL DONE, YUKI.

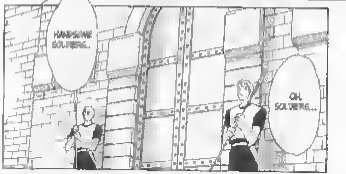
CALM DOWN. WE'RE JUST GOING TO OPEN THE GATES A BIT SOONER THAN PLANNED.
OPEN THEM IMMEDIATELY
LET IN THE HITTITES!

WHOOP
VERY WELL, WE'LL GO. I'LL KEEP YOU NICE AND WARM UNTIL MORNING.
SO, YOU WERE LONELY? THERE, THERE
EXCUSE ME..

HAHH. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD PLACE FOR THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS TO BREAK! PRINCE KAI, BUT..
ALL IS WELL.
KLINK
THIS BLOOD SHALL SOAK THESE BED SHEETS OF THIS FLOOR.
GOOD-NIGHT THEN!
YOUR PARDON, GREAT KAHVA.
I ENJOYED TONIGHT'S FESTIVITIES IMMENSELY. THE COMPANY WAS ENTHRALLING

OPEN THE GATES.
GLADLY ♡
WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU
HEH
WHAT DO YOU GIRLS WANT?
FWOOSH
THE ARMORY IS ON FIRE
F-FIRE!
IT'S BEGUN!
I HOPE WE CAN TAKE THE CITY BEFORE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RETURNS!

YES, PRINCE.
ILBAN, OPEN THE GATES.
KASH, YOU GET WORD TO OUR MEN OUTSIDE.
KIK-KURI
GET FIRE TO THE ARMORIES
YES, PRINCE
YES, PRINCE.


HANDSOME SOLDIERS.
OH, SOLDIERS...

IF YOU LOVE YOUR LIFE KEEP QUIET
(GENERAL RANA, I PRESUME?
OUR SOLDIERS ARE FLOODING THROUGH THE WESTERN GATE!
THE CITY HALL IS IN OUR HANDS.
THE EASTERN GATE WILL SOON BE UNDER OUR CONTROL.
WE'VE CAPTURED ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS!
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN, KING-SAN.
IT'S AMAZING.

HURRY!
IF ANY MAN DELAYS US, HIS SEVERED HEAD WILL ADORN THE WALLS OF MALATIA!
KLOP KLOP KLOP KLOP
CHIP
HUH?!
HAH!
YOU'RE MITANNI SOLDIERS!
GET HOLD OF YOURSELVES!
WHOA!
HELP!

EVERYONE ELSE IS TOO BUSY TO WORRY ABOUT THIS, SO I'LL DO IT..
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S REALLY A TALISMAN THAT CAN CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS, BUT IF IT EXISTS, I DON'T WANT THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS OR QUEEN NAMA TO GET IT
WHAT IS IT?
PRINCE KAIL, I HAVE NEWS
WAIT! YUKI! SOMEONE ELSE CAN—
YUKI!!
I'LL GO! I'LL FIND IT!
WE CAN'T LET THEM FIND IT!
THE DRAGON'S EYE!!
THE DRAGON'S EYE IS IN THE TREASURE ROOM.

LET THEM.
PRINCE KAIL, NO!
MITANNI FIGHT SOLDIERS ARE LOOTING THE TREASURE ROOM!
PRINCE KAIL!
BUT EVEN HAIR AND HER SISTERS ARE HELPING
YOU ARE MY PRINCESS
YOUR PLACE IS AT MY SIDE.
BUT SHOULDN'T I...
BE DOING SOMETHING?

I HOPE YURI IS ALL RIGHT
I'M SORRY MY PRINCE.
YES, BUT...
SOMEONE CUT THE BOWSTRINGS OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO TAKE IT
HMM, ANY? THE MESSENGER GOT THROUGH...
BECAUSE SOMEONE KILLED OUR SOLDIERS, RIGHT?
THERE'S A TRAITOR AMONG US.

KLAK KLAK
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!
PRINCE KAIL!
KLAK
HE'S RETURNED!!?
HE ENTERED THROUGH THE EASTERN GATE.
KLAK
I WAS JUST TOLD THAT THE EASTERN GATE WOULD SOON BE IN OUR HANDS!
WHAT?!

YOU'RE...
...SHAUKAT
PRINCESS YUKI?
WHY WOULD A PRIEST OF ME HERE?

RO
OAR
HURRY UP
TAKE ALL THE TREASURE YOU CAN CARRY!
IT'S HOPE-LESS!
DAMN IT
HOW WILL I EVER FIND A LITTLE BOY IN ALL THIS?

KLANK
GASP

KLUNK
THAT'S IT!
THE DRAGON'S EYE!
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT
ME?
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WILL YOU HELP ME?
HEH
WHAT DO YOU?
WHY IS A CONCUBINE PLANNING THE CITY'S TREASURE HOUSE?
WHAT IS IT?
A GOLD-INLAID IVORY BOX ABOUT THIS BIG
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE
TWO SEARCHERS ARE BETTER THAN ONE
I'LL FIND THAT DRAGON'S EYE NO MATTER WHAT!
WHEAT?
SOOS

WHAT?!
PRINCE KAIL...
I'VE SEEN THAT MAN BEFORE. I SAW HIM IN QUEEN NAMA'S TEMPLE.

QUEEN NAMA'S MAGIC?
HE'S HERE?
UGH?!
UH... YES, SIR.

UM..
LORD ARHI, YOUR HIGHNESS...
THE PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN.
YOU THERE!
PRINCE KAIL HAS A QUESTION FOR YOU
WHAT'S YOUR MASTER'S NAME, MAN?
HUH?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS?

THE CITY IS ALMOST ENTIRELY UNDER OUR CONTROL.
HE CAN'T GET THROUGH THE EASTERN COURT YARD!
WHERE IS THE PRINCE OF DARK NESS?

NO, MY PRINCE.
HAVE YOU FOUND YURI YET?
WE DON'T KNOW WHO THE TRAITOR IS! SHE MAY BE IN WANDER!

I'M MEANT TO STAY WITH HIM, BUT I THINK HE GOT LOST.
I HAVE TO FIND MY MASTER!
WHAT IS IT?
THIS SLAVE IS CAUSING TROUBLE.
FOR-GIVE ME, PRINCE KAIL.
RUSTLE RUSTLE

I'M SO HAPPY I FOUND THE DRAGON'S EYE!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT..
YES..
SO HAVE I.
HEH
SWAP
WHAT?
THAT PRIEST IS UPH!!!
UHM. SHALMA ?!
HE ACCOMPANIED YOUR AUNT AS A PRIEST.
HIS NAME IS UHM SHALMA. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
84

I'LL LET THOSE SOLDIERS HAVE YOU INSTEAD
I WANTED TO TAKE YOUR HEAD BACK TO THE QUEEN, BUT
THIS WAY!
HEY, IT'S A WOMAN!
SHE'S JUST A CHILD!
HMH. ALL THE BETTER.

WHAM
KLANK
HEY!
THERE'S MORE IN HERE!
I JOINED THIS EXPEDITION JUST TO RETRIEVE IT
QUEEN NANA WANTS IT

A PETITE PRIEST?

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
THAT IS...
ULP

A
A
A
A
A
AH!

KLAK
KLAK
OUT OF MY WAY!
OUT OF MY WAY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
KLAK
KLUNK

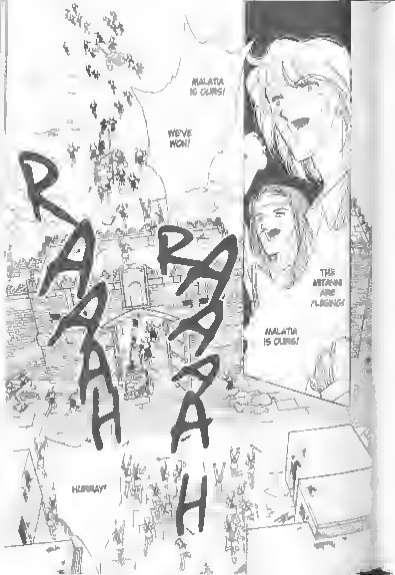
I HAD THE DRAGON'S EYE...
IN MY HANDS!!
WE'RE LEAVING THIS PLACE!
ABANDON MALATIA!
MITANNI SOLDIERS, WITHDRAW!

GO AND TELL KAL MURGIL
I DON'T WANT TO KILL A PRIEST
WHOOP
SWIK

...THAT HE CAN HAVE MALATIA.
BUT I'LL PAY FOR IT WITH HIS HEAD.

PRINCE KARL, MALATIA HAS FALLEN!
THE CITY IS OURS.
FIND HER!
WHERE'S YUKI?

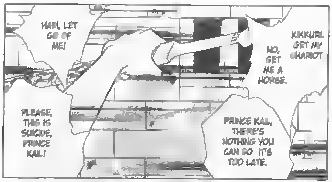
KLAK
LET'S BE ON OUR WAY!
KLAK
KLAK
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS ORDERED THE RETREAT.
GOOD! WITH ALL THIS TREASURE, WE WON'T NEED TO WORK WHEN WE GET BACK TO WAGRIGAARM.
AND MEN WILL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THE MAIDEN, TOO.
SHE'S THE BEST PIECE OF PLUNDER WE'VE GOT

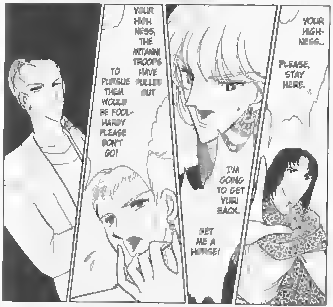

MALATYA IS OURS!
WE'VE WON!
RAAAAH
RAAAAH
THE ARTANNI ARE FLEEING!
MALATYA IS OURS!
HURRAY!

WHAT?
THE ANTANNI HAVE YURI?
YURI!!!
WE SAW HER BEING TAKEN AWAY ON A CART THROUGH THE EASTERN GATE.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS! SHE WAS TAKEN BY ANTANNI LOOTERS.
ARE YOU SURE?

EVERY-THING WENT EXACTLY AS PRINCE KAI PLANNED.
RAH
AH-HRM...
MALATIA FELL IN ONLY THREE DAYS.
RAH
HAH, LOOK!
IT'S PRINCESS YURI!
SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED BY ANTANNI SOLDIERS!

YURI IS MY LOVE!!
SHE IS MY PRINCESS!
LET ME GO!
I'M GOING TO GET HER BACK!

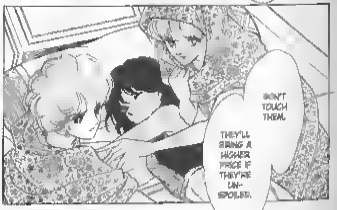

HARI, LET GO OF ME!
KIKKURI, GET MY CHARIOT
NO, GET ME A HORSE.
PLEASE, THIS IS SUICIDE, PRINCE KAI!
PRINCE KAI, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. IT'S TOO LATE.

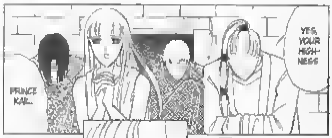

YOUR HIGHNESS, THE IKTANNI TROOPS HAVE FOLLED OUT
TO PURSUE THEM WOULD BE FOOLHARDY PLEASE DON'T GO!
YOUR HIGHNESS...
PLEASE, STAY HERE.
I'M GOING TO GET YURI BACK.
GET ME A HORSE!

KASH, KINGAPA
RELEASE ME.
GATHER ALL THE SENIOR OFFICIALS WE'VE CAPTURED INTO ONE ROOM.
AND RESTORE ORDER TO THE CITY

I KNOW YOU CARE DEEPLY FOR PRINCESS YUM
PRINCE KAIL
BUT WHAT OF THE 5,000 SOLDIERS UNDER YOUR COMMAND?
PLEASE DO NOT FORGET
YOU ARE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE RIGHT NOW

KRAM





SWIP
PRINCE KAIL?!
HE WILL SURELY KILL HER.
BUT IF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS DISCOVERS SHE'S MY PRINCESS...
IF HE LEARNS THAT SHE IS THE ISHTAR OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE...

PRINCE KAIL... I DON'T WANT TO UPSET YOU BUT
WOMEN CAPTURED IN WAR ARE OFTEN SOLD AS SLAVES.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR PRINCESS YURI
I KNOW
BUT EVEN IF SHE DOES BECOME ANOTHER MAN'S SLAVE.
IF SHE LIVES, I WILL FIND HER AND BRING HER BACK.

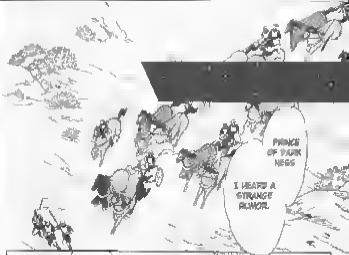
SEND A MESSAGE TO MY FATHER!
KIHLIRI.
WE'RE PUSHING ON TO WASEGUGANN FROM HERE!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
KLANK

WHAT?
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WISHES TO SEE THESE WOMEN

HOW SHOULD I KNOW WHY?
WHY? HE NEVER TOLD US NOT TO TAKE THEM!
BUT IF WE DON'T OBEY HE'LL BUT US ON THE FRONT LINES.

YES
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HE MUST BE LOOKING FOR PRINCESS YUKI.

ASSEMBLE THE CAPTIVES!
AND TRIAD ANDROIDS CONCUBINE TO ME.


PRINCE OF DARKNESS
I HEARD A STRANGER RUMOR.
MURRAL'S CONCUBINE?
THAT IS WHAT THE CAPTIVE WOMEN ARE SAYING
AND THERE IS A RUMOR THAT KALL MURRAL'S CONCUBINE IS AMONG THEM.
OUR SOLDIERS HAVE CAPTURED MANY MALAYIAN AND HITTITE WOMEN..

THAT WOMAN IS SAID TO BE THE INCARNATION OF ISHTAR.
THIS IS MOST INTERESTING IF TRUE

YOU THERE...
GET IN LINE.
PRINCESS YUNA...
LOOK...
HUSH! THE MIKADO IS SPEAKING. KILL NEAR YOU!
WHERE ARE WE? WHERE'S THE PRINCE'S EYE?
WHAT?
FAINT HEARTED LOT YOU ARE!
WE WILL SEE IN THAT THE GRADSTONE OF PRINCE KAN MURDER OF THE HITTITES IS AMONG YOU!
WE'RE IN...
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S CAVE?
PRINCE MATTHIKAZA COMMANDS YOUR YOU MUST OBEY!

WHAT?
SHE'LL STAND OUT IF SHE REMAINS DRESSED IN THE PURPLE OF ROYALTY. I'M GOING TO GIVE CLOTHES WITH HER!
SHALA, UNDRESS PRINCESS YUNA.
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

PRINCE, TAKE ME INSTEAD OF ANOTHER MAIDEN. I AM THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN MY VILLAGE.
WHAT ABOUT ME, YOUR HIGHNESS? TAKE ME AS YOUR CONCUBINE!
NO DON'T ..
YOUR HIGHNESS.
HAVEN'T YOU FOUND HER YET?
MY APOLOGY YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS?
FOR THAT HE IS CALLED THE BLOODY PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
HE IS UTTERLY WITHOUT MERCY EVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. IT IS SAID THAT HIS CHARIOT LEAVES BEHIND IT A RIVER OF BLOOD.

I'VE NO SHORTAGE OF CONCUBINES.
MAKE NO MISTAKE.
I DON'T WANT MUSHIN'S WOMAN FOR MY BED
I WISH TO EXECUTE HER AS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL.
FWUP
FWUP

SHINK
AAGH!
AAH!
SHINK

DON'T WORRY, YUE WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
OH, YUE!
HUSH, PRINCESS YUNE.
BUT IF HE FINDS YOU, HE WILL KILL YOU. PLEASE KEEP QUIET
HAWL..
YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE so-called NIGHTAIR MUST BE AMONG THESE WOMEN.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
RYU!
BA-BUMP

YES, SIR.
BRING FORTH ALL THE WOMEN ATTIRED IN PINE RAIMENT!
THE BLOODY PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
BEER!
PLEASE, MERCY!
NOY
WAP
YUE, TOO, STEP FORWARD!
I WILL KILL THIS "GODDESS" RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES.
AND SEND HER CARCASS TO MURSIL AND HIS MEN.
HE MAY BE A PRINCE, BUT HE'S NOTHING LIKE PRINCE KAIL

PHEW
TMP

WAP
A PURPLE DRESS?
YOU WEAR EXPENSIVE CLOTH DYED WITH MUREX FROM CANAAN.
FEW CAN AFFORD SUCH FINERY.
SHULA...
BACH!

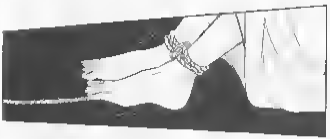
IT'S VERY FAINT BUT...
YOUR HAIR SMELLS OF FRANKINCENSE
YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN THIS LINGERING SCENT FROM A PRINCE.

OH!
WA
BUT YOUR HIGHNESS...
THAT IS MY YOUNGER SISTER!
SHE'S JUST A VILLAGE GIRL.
PLEASE LET HER GO!
WE WERE TRAVELING WITH THE HITITE ARMY AS GIVING WHEN OUR SOLDIERS CAPTURED US.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE ISHTAR.
AND I WILL EXECUTE YOU TO SHOW THE HITTITE SOLDIERS THAT THEY WERE DECEIVED!
OH!!
YOU MUST BE... KAIL MURSILI'S WOMAN.
I STOPPED NOTICING IT BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM.
PRINCE KAIL'S SCENT?
BUT THE PRINCE OF THE HITTITES?
AND WHO COULD AFFORD SO RARE A BALM IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

HELP ME, PRINCE KAL!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
I'M FRIGHTENED AND LONELY!
THIS TIME AND PLACE IS STILL SO STRANGE TO ME.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO PRINCE KAL!!

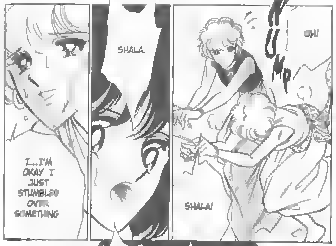
I'M SO SCARED.


PLEASE SAVE ME,
PRINCE KAL!

WA... WATER... PLEASE
KEEP THAT LINE IN ORDER!
GET AWAY FROM HIM! KEEP WALKING!

WE HAVEN'T EATEN OR DRUNK ANYTHING SINCE WE LEFT MALAITA! IT'S NO WONDER WE CAN'T WALK ANYMORE!
STOP IT

PRINCE OF DARKNESS
DON'T BOTHER
KILL HIM.


SHALA
I...I'M OKAY. I JUST STUMBLED OVER SOMETHING
SHALA!
UH!

YOU THERE.
GET UP!

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN STILL WORRY ABOUT OTHERS.
KLAK
HE COULD'VE KEPT GOING IF YOU HADN
IT WOULDN'T HAVE HURT JUST TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE WATER!
KLAK
HOW HORRIBLE!
WHAT A CRUEL THING YOU DID!

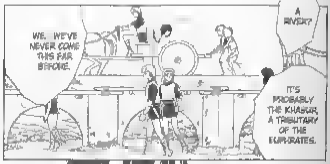
?!
THERE WAS THE PLACE OF YOUR EXECUTION.
WAIT?

WASSU-GAAN.

THEY'RE ONLY SLAVES.
KILL HIM!
THOSE WHO CAN'T STAND THE TASK WILL NEVER BE FIT FOR HARD WORK.

YES YOUR HIGHNESS
BUT...
AAAGH
CHUNK
AAAGH!

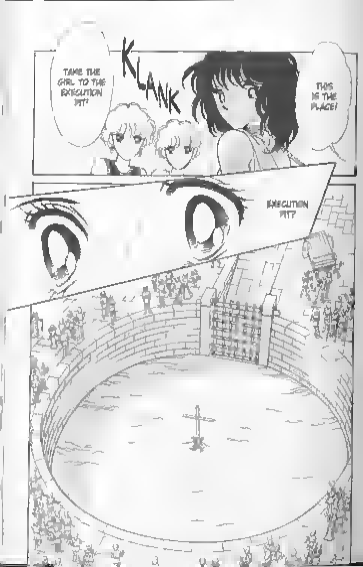
WASSUKANNI
THE CAPITAL OF THE MITANNI KINGDOM, ONE OF THE THREE MOST POWERFUL STATES OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST
AROUND 1400 B.C., THE MITANNI DEFEATS THEIR RIVALS, THE ASSYRIANS AND THE BABYLONIANS.
...AND BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL KINGDOM IN MESOPOTAMIA.
HATTUSA
HITTITE EMPIRE
THE MITANNI KINGDOM WAS FOUNDED BY THE HURRIANS.
WASSUKANNI
MITANNI KINGDOM
ASSYRIA
BABYLONIA
EGYPT
WASSUKANNI


A RIVER?
WE... WE'VE NEVER COME THIS FAR BEFORE.
IT'S PROBABLY THE KHABUR, A TRIBUTARY OF THE EUPHRATES.

I'M SO FAR FROM PRINCE KAL.
GULP
THE EUPHRATES?
I THINK I LEARNED ABOUT IT IN HISTORY CLASS.

HOOF
HOOF

THE MITANNI HAD A MIGHTY ARMY.
ITS WARRIOR CHARIOTEER, THE MARYANNU, FORMED THE BACK BONE OF THE MITANNI RULING CLASS.
...AND LIKE THIS INTREPID, MILITARISTIC NATION.


TAKE THE GIRL TO THE EXECUTION PIT!
KLANK
THIS IS THE PLACE!
EXECUTION PIT?

THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS RETURNED!
I HEARD HE BROUGHT THE HITTITE'S FIGHTER BACK WITH HIM!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
SHE'S ONLY A CHILD! DON'T THE HITTITES HAVE ANY GROWN WOMEN?
THAT SKINNY GIRL?
IS THAT ISHTAR?
PRINCESS YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT
DON'T WORRY...
IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THE ARMIES TO CONQUER ANATOLIA, EH?
WHAT FOOLISH NEWS
THEY WORSHIP THAT LITTLE GIRL AS A GODDESS?

THE WOMEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO THE SOLDIERS WHO CAPTURED THEM.
WITH THE HORSES AND CAMELS?
SNORT
ASLAN!
WE WAS CAUGHT BY THE ARYANN SOLDIERS DURING THE BATTLE.
THAT'S YOUR HORSE, PRINCESS YUNI. LOOK!
A GREAT WARRIOR SUCH AS HE COULD HAVE ANY BEAUTY HE DESIRED
KAIL MURAH HAS PECULIAR TASTE IN WOMEN.

WHEN THESE SLAVES REALIZE THE FATE THAT AWAITS THEM, THEY'LL ENVY YOU
PRINCE OF DARKNESS
BE GRATEFUL THAT I'M ALLOWING YOU A QUICK DEATH.
YUNI, NO!
PRINCESS YUNI!
!!
...LOOK THERE. THEY'LL ALL BE AUCTIONED OFF AFTER YOUR EXECUTION.

FWAP
PRINCE KAIL IS NOT A LIAR!
BUT IF YOU DIE, MURSILI'S LIE ABOUT ISHTAR...
I'LL BELIEVE YOU... IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AFTER THIS
WILL BE REVEALED TO THE WORLD!

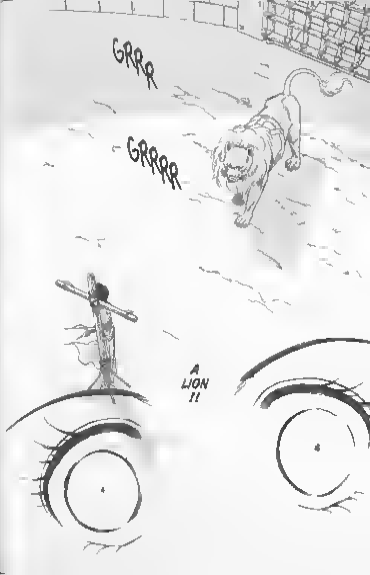
WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN TO HIM?
WHAT?
NO!
I INSISTED ON STAYING WITH HIM!
THEN WAS THE STORY A LIE TO JUSTIFY HIS KEEPING A WOMAN WITH HIM?
PRINCE KAIL NEVER NEEDED ISHTAR TO WIN HIS BATTLES!
BUT IF HE MUST HALL AROUND A FALSE GODDESS IN ORDER TO WIN BATTLES.
...PERHAPS HE'S NOT SO GREAT.

IF YOU SURVIVE...
I'LL GRANT ANY FAVOR YOU ASK OF ME.

HOW DARE HE CALL PRINCE KAI A LIAR!
I CAN'T BE HERE. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO PRINCE KAI.
I CAN'T
THUMP
AHAHAHAHA

WHAT GIVES THIS GIRL HER TO CLAIM THAT SHE IS THE GODDESS ISHTAR!
LET THE TRUTH BE REVEALED!
KILL HER!!
KILL THE LITTLE MONSY!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HE HASN'T EATEN FOR TEN DAYS.
I CAN'T DIE NOW!!
ROWRR
BUT LIONS ARE SACRED ANIMALS THAT SERVE ISHTAR.
IF YOU ARE REALLY ISHTAR, HE WON'T EAT YOU.
A--


GRRR
GRRRR
A LION !!

ASLAN!
JUMP
AAAH!
THE BEAST HE HAS! LOOK OUT!
ASLAN!
TARRUMP
TARRUMP
TARRUMP

ASLAN!
A GAWKY MAID LIKE YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO IMPERSONATE HER.
ISHTAR IS A REGAL DIETY ACCOMPANIED BY THE GODDESSES NINATTA AND KULLITTA.
ASLAN!
THUD

RYU!
SHALA!
WHAK

KARRUMP

THROW THOSE TWO IN THE PIT!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS! THE GIRL IS GETTING AWAY!

WUMP
AIEE!

HERK
AAAH!

PRINCESS YUKI!!
GR AR RR R

THAT GIRL SAVED BODY THE LION!
WHO IS SHE?
THE GIRL
PRINCESS YUKI!
huff huff
huff
GRRRR
ROWWR!

SHE MARCHES UNDER THE SKY AT DAWN.
HOORAY
HER COMPANIONS WERE THE TWIN GODDESSES, NINATTA AND KULLITTA, AND A LION
ISHTAR WAS A GODDESS OF LOVE, FERTILITY AND WAR.
RAAAAH

HOORAY
LONG LIVE PRINCESS YURI!
AS WE BELIEVE, PRINCESS YURI IS TRULY ISHTAR.
SHE MUST BE ISHTAR.
HAIL ISHTAR!
HOORAY
HOORAY
HOORAY

THIS IS WONDERFUL! WE CAN GO HOME!
MY WISH IS...
...THAT YOU IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF YOUR PRISONERS!
YOU PROMISED THAT IF I SURVIVED,
YOU WOULD GRANT ME ANY WISH, RIGHT?
YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU LET HIM GO, THE DIGNITY OF THE ARYANA WILL BE...
IF I TAINT MY YOUNGER BROTHER THE PEOPLE, THE IMAGE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD SUFFER.
BUT HER FATE...
AND KILL HER BEFORE SHE CROSSES THE BORDER! MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO WITNESSES.
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOUR WISH WAS TO RETURN TO YOUR MAN, RIGHT?
VERY WELL. GO TO HIM.

YOU MEN NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL GO TO WAR AND BE TAKEN PRISONER!!
AND FOR YOU WOMEN, IT COULD BE YOUR HUSBAND, YOUR SON, OR YOUR LOVER!!
ISN'T IT WISER TO COME TO SOME MUTUAL AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS?
HAIL ISHTAR!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
HAIL PRINCESS YURI!
THANK YOU, PRINCESS YURI.
SHE SPEAKS WISELY...
WE SUFFER TERRIBLY WHEN OUR MEN MARCH TO WAR AND DON'T RETURN!
THAT WOULD BE A GREAT RELIEF!

STOP TREATING YOUR CAPTIVES LIKE ANIMALS!!
IF YOU HAVE TO USE THEM FOR LABOR, GIVE THEM JOBS MEANT FOR HUMANS!!
AND PROVIDE THEM WITH PROPER FOOD AND SHELTER!!
THAT'S HOW PRINCE KAIL TREATS HIS PRISONERS OF WAR!

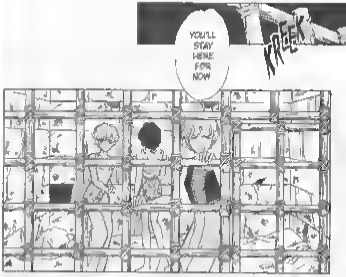
THAT GIRL...!
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE MURDERED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
I DIDN'T THINK...
YOU'D LET ME MAKE IT BACK ALIVE.
WIP
THAT INSOLENT LITTLE VIXEN!!
BUT HERE, EVERYONE WILL BE WATCHING TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT YOU HONOR YOUR WORD!
IT WON'T BE EASY FOR YOU TO RENEGE
I MADE A PROMISE.
AND I WILL DO AS YOU ASK.
HAIL, ISHTAR!
HOORAY
HOORAY
WHY?
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR YOUR FREEDOM?
LONG LIVE THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!

WHAT SHALL WE DO, YOUR HIGH NESS?
IF WE MOVE AGAINST HER, THEY MAY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE HITTITES.
OUR PEOPLE NOW BELIEVE THAT SHE IS ISHTAR.
HAHA
HMM. WE MUST TRY NOT HASTILY
PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE THE PEOPLE'S RELIEF WORK TO OUR OWN ADVANTAGE

OH...?
WAS IT A LITTLE GIRL'S BLUFF?

SHE'S FAR MORE ASTUTE THAN I GAVE HER CREDIT FOR!!
I HAVE TO SAY OF CHEATING ON THE RESULT A WOMAN OF SUCH COULD NOT HAVE DONE BETTER.

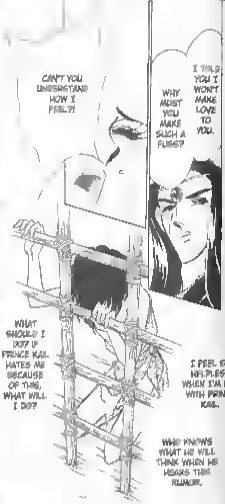
I WANT TO GO BACK TO PRINCE KAIL!!
I DON'T CARE IF THEY TRY TO KILL ME ON THE WAY HOME! I JUST WANT TO GO BACK TO HIM!!
I WAS SCARED TO DEATH.
WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO CRY AND BEG HIM TO SEND ME BACK TO PRINCE KAIL!


YOU'LL STAY HERE FOR NOW
KREEK
I WAS SCARED
PRINCESS YURI, THAT WAS AMAZING!
YOU REALLY WERE WORRIES-SIVE.

HE CAN'T DO THAT!! PRINCESS YURI BELONGS TO PRINCE KAIL!
DO YOU MEAN THE PRINCE IS TAKING PRINCESS YURI AS HIS CONCUBINE?
NO WAY!! I'M NOT GOING TO HIS SERAGLIO!!
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!
SERAGLIO, ISN'T THAT LIKE A HAREM?
PROBABLY JUST SO!! HUH.
THAT MUST BE WHERE MATTIWAZA'S WIVES AND CONCUBINES LIVE
IF YOU PREFER TO STAY IN PRISON, SUIT YOURSELF
WHAM
MATTIWAZA, CROWN PRINCE OF THE MITANNI, HAS SUMMONED YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
PLEASE COME WITH US.
HOLY ISHTAR...
HOLY ISHTAR, YOU ARE...
...GOING TO LIVE IN THE PRINCE'S SERAGLIO.

I WOULDN'T GO TO YOUR SERAGLIO IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT!
DON'T YOU DARE DO IT!!
PRINCE KAIL WOULD NEVER USE THE RUMOR!
THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD? THE MYRTIE EMPIRE, TOO??
WORD WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE KNOWN WORLD
WON'T SEND OUT SUCH A LIE TO PRINCE KAIL!
OF COURSE THAT'S MY MAIN OBJECTIVE!
AND ALL WILL KNOW THAT ISHTAR NOW SIDES WITH THE MITANNI
IT WILL BE A TONIC TO MITANNI MORALE AND PRESTIGE.
DON'T DO IT!!

YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF ...?
THEN WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO GO... TO THAT PLACE?
PRINCE OF DARKNESS?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF MAKING LOVE TO YOU ANYWAY
IF YOU LIKE IT HERE, THEN STAY
THE RUMOR THAT ISHTAR IS KING IS UNDEAD.
I ONLY WISH.
FOR IT TO BE KNOWN THAT ISHTAR HAS COME TO LIVE IN MY SERAGLIO.


CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL?!
I TOLD YOU I WON'T MAKE LOVE TO YOU.
WHY MUST YOU MAKE SUCH A FUSS?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?? IF PRINCE KAL HATES ME BECAUSE OF THIS, WHAT WILL I DO??
I FEEL SO HELPLESS WHEN I'M NOT WITH PRINCE KAL.
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WILL THINK WHEN HE HEARS THIS RUMOUR.

IT'S ALL RIGHT PRINCESS YURI PRINCE KAL WILL UNDERSTAND
NO!
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT TO ME!!
IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR CAPTIVE WOMEN TO BE MADE SLAVES AND CONCUBINES.
KAL MURSILI KNOWS THAT
WHATEVER HAPPENS TO YOU, PRINCE KAL WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT
I'M SKINNY AND NOT AT ALL BEAUTIFUL.
LIKE THE PRINCE OF RAMSES SAID, I AM ONLY A CHILD

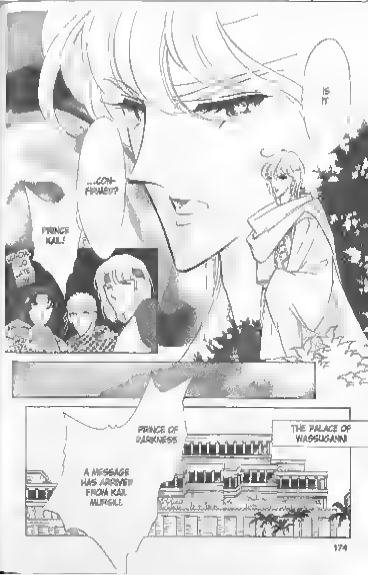
THEY SAID THEY GOT THE STORY FROM AN ASSYRIAN CARAVAN.
I HEARD THE MEN DISCUSSING IT.
THAT CAN'T BE!

I HEARD THAT YUKI HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO PRINCE MATTIWAZA'S SERAGLIO.
AND HAVE THE SOLDIERS KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT?
HMM. WELL, LET'S NOT TELL PRINCE KAJI!

HITTITE EMPIRE
KAJI MURSILI'S CAMP
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS HAS TAKEN PRINCESS YURI AS HIS WOMAN?

ISHTAR NOW SIDES WITH THE MITANNI..
DID YOU HEAR, THAT?
ISHTAR NOW BELONGS TO THE MITANNI PRINCE!
ISHTAR IS NOW THE CONCUBINE OF THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS..
IS THAT TRUE?
I HEARD THAT THE HITTITE'S ISHTAR HAS BECOME THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S CONCUBINE.
THAT'S GOOD NEWS.
NOW THE MITANNI WILL ENJOY ISHTAR'S DIVINE PROTECTION!

A MESSAGE
...FROM PRINCE KAIL?
KAIL MURIAL!? WHAT IS IT?
PRINCE KAIL...
AHA!
BUT HOLD YOUR TONGUE OR TIAS GIRL DIES, UNDERSTOOD?
I'LL ALLOW YOU TO STAY AND HEAR HIS MESSAGE.
PRINCE KAIL REQUESTS AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.
TO PRINCE MATTIWAZA, REPRESENTATIVE OF KING TUSHRATTA OF THE MITANNI.
ALLOW ME TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE FROM MY MASTER, PRINCE KAIL MURIAL!


IS IT
...CONFIRMED?
PRINCE KAIL!
PRINCE OF DARKNESS
THE PALACE OF WAGGUGANN
A MESSAGE HAS ARRIVED FROM KAIL MURIAL!

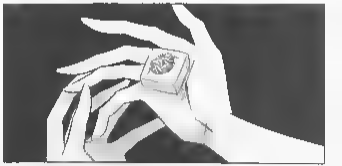
NOT A WORD, UNDERSTOOD?
BUT BEFORE I GO, MAY I PAY MY RESPECTS TO ISHTAR?
I SHALL TELL HIM, YOUR HIGHNESS.
TELL MURSILI THIS: IF HE WANTS HIS PEOPLE BACK, HE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THEM BY FORCE.
HIS OFFER IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.
I BEG YOUR PROTECTION ON MY JOURNEY BACK.
THOUGH YOU NOW BELONG TO ANOTHER NATION, ISHTAR IS ISHTAR.
PLEASE TELL PRINCE KAL.
THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE I LOVE.

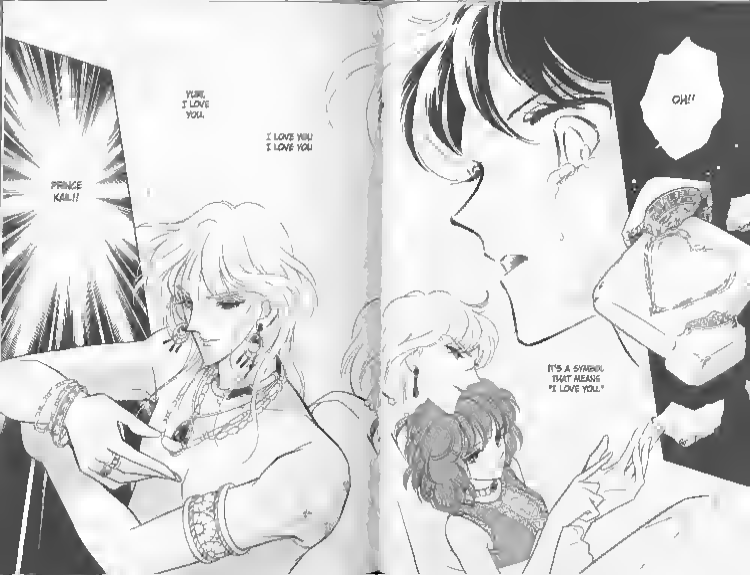
AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS? WHAT A RIDICULOUS NOTION!
THE DETAILS ARE IN THIS LETTER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
HE'S BREAKING OPEN THE LETTER.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
NO COUNTRY WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A PROPOSAL.
WHAT IS MURSILI THINKING?
I'D LIKE ASK KAL...
IF PRINCE KAL HATES ME NOW!

WE WRITE A MESSAGE ON A RAW TABLET, BAKE IT, ENVELOP IT IN UNBAKED CLAY, INSCRIBE THE RECIPIENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS.
BAKE IT AGAIN, AND SEND IT OUT.
PAPER IS COSTLY AND RARE...
SO WE USE CLAY TABLETS FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PRINCE KAL?!
YES, THIS IS PRINCE KAL'S SEAL.
OH! IT'S A NOTE FROM PRINCE KAL!
PRINCE KAL SENT ME A MESSAGE?
GIVE IT TO ME. I'LL READ IT FOR YOU
WHAT?
TAK
BUT I CAN'T READ CUNEIFORM.
IT PROBABLY SAYS HE'S COMING TO RESCUE YOU SOON.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S NOT A LETTER...

I'M GOING TO MY ROOM.
PRINCESS YUKI!
I WISH YOU ALL HAPPINESS, ACHIYO'S GOOD-BYE.
HE PUT SOMETHING IN MY HAND.




PRINCE KAIL!!
YUKI, I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU I LOVE YOU
OH!!
IT'S A SYMBOL THAT MEANS "I LOVE YOU."

TELL MY ELDER SISTER NAKIA THAT I SHALL TURN MATTHAIA'S SERAGLIO INTO THAT GIRL'S TOMB.
EXCELLENT IDEA.
LET ME DEAL WITH THAT LITTLE PEST
YES, PRINCESS NAKIA.
QUEEN NAKIA WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT

I'M OKAY ..
I'LL HANG ON.
PRINCE KAIL CAME UP WITH HIS IDEA IKELY PRO-POSAL.
.. JUST SO THAT HE COULD GET THIS TO PRINCESS YURI.
I'LL HANG ON UNTIL YOU COME FOR ME, PRINCE KAIL!!

ILLUSTRATION / GALLERY

SCANED BY CHROKO.J EDITOR AKITO - SAMA